

B.5(a)

MOTION ON NOTICE

The following resolution relates to provincial policies and is submitted for consideration to forward to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association (LMLGA). The resolution, if approved by Council, will be submitted to the LMLGA by March 22, 2013, for consideration at its AGM and Convention to be held May 8-10, 2013.

(a) Request Provincial Government to Amend the SAFER Program

MOVER: Councillor Tony Tang

SECONDER: Councillor Kerry Jang

WHEREAS

1. The Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters (SAFER) program of BC Housing is intended to help in making rents affordable for BC seniors with low to moderate incomes by providing monthly cash assistance to subsidize rents for eligible BC residents;
2. The upper limits of the maximum monthly rent levels for the SAFER program in Metro Vancouver have not been changed since October, 2005;
3. The upper limits of the maximum monthly rent levels for the SAFER program no longer reflect the average rental costs for housing in Metro Vancouver which erodes the intended assistance for seniors on fixed incomes;
4. Seniors deserve our respect for their decisions in choosing the appropriate community in which to live in order to optimize their opportunities for health, participation and security to enhance quality of life;
5. Seniors regardless of their health or abilities are required to re-apply annually to stay in the SAFER program or risk losing months of rental subsidy before reinstatement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver request the Government of British Columbia adjust the maximum monthly rent levels under the SAFER program to reflect the actual prevailing cost of housing for seniors across Metro Vancouver and eliminate the requirement of annual re-application;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver submit these requests to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities for endorsement at their annual policy convention.

